

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 7, amend the second paragraph as follows:

Upon approaching the blind end of the channel 35, the end of the conduit 18 engages an outward flare 38 of the sleeve, which serves to tightly compress and seal the conduit. ~~As will be noted from an examination of FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the outward flare is axially registered with, i.e. overlies, a portion of the buttress thread 36, such that the end portion of the conduit is forced against the thread.~~ Further, the outer periphery of the sleeve 22 serves to assure that the interior of the conduit is not deformed as a result of engagement between the buttress thread 36 and the outer periphery of the conduit.